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Imagery analysis report

**Developments in Soviet
Experimental Tank Division
Korosten Army Barracks
NNE AL-4, USSR (TSR)**

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DEVELOPMENTS IN SOVIET EXPERIMENTAL TANK DIVISION KOROSTEN ARMY BARRACKS NNE AL-4, USSR (TSR)

1. (TSR) New developments were observed in the Soviet experimental tank division at Korosten Army Barracks NNE AL-4 USSR, on The presence of deployed BTR-70 armored personnel carriers (APCs) was confirmed, and a SPOON REST D early warning (EW) radar with SA-8 SAMs and the possible formation of a divisional EW battery were seen (Figure 1).

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2. (TSR) A total of nine BTR-70 APCs were seen within the Korosten/Ovruch reorganized tank division. Two BTR-70 APCs (Figure 2) were seen within a compound at Korosten, and seven were observed at Ovruch Headquarters Tank Division/Army Barracks AL-1 Korosten supports a training area and houses training elements of the new Soviet experimental tank division headquartered at Ovruch.¹ The presence of the two BTR-70s at Korosten indicates a probable familiarization/training function, since the tank regiment motorized rifle battalions at Korosten are equipped with BMP APCs. Additional equipment observed within the compound included one confirmed and five probable canvas-covered T-72 and 14 T-64 tanks.

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3. (TSR) A SPOON REST D set was seen in conjunction with an SA-8 battery field deployment at Korosten (Figure 3). The SPOON REST D was connected by cable to a support van, two generator trailers, and a THIN SKIN B radar. The SPOON REST D was positioned next to an SA-8 resupply vehicle and was apparently in support of least an SA-8 battery air defense exercise. SA-8 battery equipment observed included four SA-8 transporter-erector-launchers (TELs), two SA-8 resupply vehicles, and two BTR-60 PA command vehicles (not all illustrated).

4. (TSR) Preparations for an integrated divisional air defense exercise were underway in a separately secured vehicle park (not on Figure 1) adjacent to the field-deployed SA-8 battery. Regimental air defense equipment observed included 14 SA-9s, 11 ZSU-23/4 self-propelled anti-aircraft guns, 15 BTR-60s, and eight BMPs. A FLAT FACE radar was also present in the secured area. The FLAT FACE is not subordinate to the regimental air defense. The FLAT FACE appeared to be deployed in conjunction with the SPOON REST D and the THIN SKIN B in support of the divisional SA-8 exercise.

5. (TSR) This is the first identification of SPOON REST D, THIN SKIN B, and FLAT FACE with a divisional air defense exercise. The collocation of this EW equipment in one of the newest Soviet divisions may indicate the formation of a new divisional EW unit, possibly an EW battery. The formation of an EW battery in a Soviet division would greatly improve the reaction time of the division's air defense (SA-6, SA-8, and SA-9) and would decrease the division's reliance on Army- /Front-level EW organizations.

6. (C) Korosten is approximately 72 nautical miles (nm) northwest of Kiev and approximately 175 nm east of the USSR/Poland border in the Carpathian Military District.

REFERENCES

DOCUMENT

1. NPIC, PIR-052/78, *New-Type Soviet Combat Division (TSR)*, Dec 78 (TOP SECRET

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to 1st
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